Reply.—The ordinary requirements of the town are under present arrangements met from the annual budget allotment. The proposal for additional allotment being made by Government cannot be acceded to in the present state of the finances. As regards the alternative suggestion to raise municipal taxes to which the member referred, it rests with the Committee to take the initiative. The suggestions made by the member will be duly considered.

299. Water-supply for drainage purposes and the provision of latrines and urinals for the Trivandrum Town.

Mr. V. A. Ramakrishna Iyer B. A., B. L., said that this subject had been pressed by him last year also on the attention of Government. The Town Improvement Committee had so far back as 1896 discussed a motion from its President appealing to the Government for the introduction of water-supply to the town. The Committee again and again reminded Government of the necessity of supplying the town with good water. In his review of the Administration Report for 1071, Mr. James Thomson, the then Resident, observed that he had received an assurance from the Durbar that a project for water-supply would be matured shortly and in the order passed on that report by the Madras Government it was suggested that some decided steps might be taken in this important matter. Government had already replied that nothing could be done at present owing to financial considerations, but he would urge upon their attention another aspect of the question of water-supply. The masonry drains in the town which were being extended by the Public Works Department year after year and which could have been intended by that department only as rain-water drains had become in their present condition a source of standing nuisance and a serious menace to the health of the town. In the absence of regular flushing, these drains formed one continuous cess-pool of noxious exhalations and a breeding-house of mosquitoes and other insects which were now regarded as the chief carriers of epidemic diseases. This was a fact which could be bitterly realised by any one without any difficulty whatever. He had only to ask any man who doubted it to pass by the side of one of those drains and he was sure that he would never thank him for that visit. If such a state of the town drains were not taken immediate notice of, he was sure that it would prove a veritable danger to the

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health of the town besides rendering ineffectual all other sanitary measures that might be devised by the Committee. Again, proper latrines and urinals in different parts of the town were desiderata at present but they could not be made to serve their purpose without being every day regularly washed, for which a never-failing supply of water was absolutely needed. The Committee had already laid before Government a scheme for bringing in a supply of water from the nearest point in the Karamana river for at least flushing the drains and he requested that Government might be pleased to consider this small scheme and take the necessary action without loss of time.

Reply.—I have also felt that several parts of the town are not as neat and cleanly as they might be and I took occasion to point out this and several other defects to the Committee in reviewing their report for 1081 M. E. The necessity for providing latrines and urinals was also then noted. The Committee have now sent up a number of vital and important suggestions, including scavenging in all parts of the town for which an annual allotment of Rs. 24,000 has been asked for. Here naturally, the question of finance comes in and it is not easy of solution. As regards the proposal to bring down water from the Karamana river for flushing the drains, the Chief Engineer and the Sanitary Commissioner are of opinion that it is not a feasible arrangement. In such cases, it would be well if the Committee besides making suggestions would also recommend the means of finding the requisite funds. If any practical scheme which could be worked at a moderate cost is placed before Government, it will be duly considered. Government are equally anxious to do something in this direction, for it goes without saying that the headquarters of a State should be kept in an excellent and exemplary condition.

NEYYATTINKARA TALUK.

300. Expediting the Kothayar Right Bank channel works.

Mr. Mathevan Kesavan (*Neyyattinkara*) represented that this work, if taken in hand and accomplished, would be of great benefit to the ryots.

Reply.—Orders have been already passed for abandoning the project. The question cannot be re-opened.

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